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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/589,880

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Koji Ichikawa

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01/12/2004

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EXAMINER

LONG, HEATHER R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2004

4

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/589,880

Applicant(s)

ICHIKAWA, KOJI

Examiner

Heather R Long

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 June 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2 . 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,020,982).

Regarding claim 1, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Figs. 3, 15, 16, and 21 a photographing apparatus (11) comprising: a photographing device (100) for photographing a subject; a correction circuit (220) for correcting image information obtained by photographing by the photographing device (100); an input device (202, 205) for inputting correction information for correcting image information at an image forming apparatus; and a controller (221) which controls the correction circuit (220) such that the image information is corrected in accordance with the correction information inputted by the input device (202, 205) (col. 9, line 66 - col. 10, line 12; col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 15, lines 11-26).

Regarding claim 2, Yamauchi et al. discloses a photographing apparatus (11) further comprising: a setting device (202, 205) for setting a condition for

implementing control by the controller (221), wherein when the condition for implementing set by the setting device (202, 205) is satisfied, the controller (221) controls the correction circuit (220) (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim 3, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 15 a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the setting device (202, 205) sets the condition for implementing by selecting one condition for implementing from among a plurality of conditions for implementing control (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim 4, Yamauchi et al. discloses a photographing apparatus (11) further comprising a selector (202, 205) for selecting one of the correction information set in advance and the inputted correction information, wherein the correction circuit (220) is structured such that the image information is corrected in accordance with one of correction information set in advance and inputted correction information, and the controller (221) controls the correction circuit (220) such that the image information is corrected in accordance with the correction information selected by the selector (202, 205) (col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 16, lines 31-36).

Regarding claim 5, Yamauchi et al. discloses a photographing apparatus (11) wherein a recording medium (400), on which image information corrected by the correction circuit (220) and correction information obtained from the image forming apparatus are recorded, can be freely loaded into and removed from the photographing apparatus (11), and the input device (202, 205) inputs correction information from the recording medium (400) which is loaded in the

photographing apparatus (11) (col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 10; col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 16, lines 31-36; col. 28, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim **6**, Yamauchi et al. discloses a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the input device (202, 205) directly inputs correction information from the image forming apparatus (300) (col. 28, lines 35-67).

Regarding claim **7**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 22 a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the correction circuit (220) carries out at least one of white balance correction, gamma correction, contour enhancing correction, and color correction coefficient correction.

Regarding claim **8**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 4 a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the input device (202, 205) selectively inputs correction information for correcting the image information at one image forming apparatus among a plurality of image forming apparatuses.

Regarding claim **9**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Figs. 17 and 21 an image information correction method of a photographing apparatus (11), which method corrects image information obtained by photographing a subject by a photographing apparatus (11), the method comprising the steps of: inputting correction information for correcting the image information at an image forming apparatus; and correcting the image information in accordance with inputted correction information (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim **10**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 44 an image correction method of a photographing apparatus (11) wherein a condition for

implementing correction of the image information is set, and correction is implemented in a case in which the set condition for implementing is satisfied (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim **11**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 5 an image information correction method of a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the condition for implementing is set by selecting at least one condition for implementing from among a plurality of conditions for implementing correction of the image information (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim **12**, Yamauchi et al. discloses an image information correction method of a photographing apparatus (11) wherein one of correction information set in advance and inputted correction information is selected, and the image information is corrected accordance with the selected correction information (col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 16, lines 31-36).

Regarding claim **13**, Yamauchi et al. discloses an image information correction method of a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the correction information is inputted from a recording medium (400) which is freely loadable into and removable from the photographing apparatus (11) and on which is recorded image information which has been corrected and correction information obtained from the image forming apparatus (col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 10; col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 16, lines 31-36; col. 28, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim **14**, Yamauchi et al. discloses an image information correction method of a photographing apparatus (11) wherein the correction

information is inputted directly from the image forming apparatus (col. 28, lines 35-67).

Regarding claim **15**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Figs. 3, 5, and 87B a method of dispersing image information correction processings for dispersing a plurality of image information correction processings for correcting image information obtained by photographing by a photographing apparatus (11), the method comprising the steps of: carrying out, at a photographing apparatus (11), at least one image information correction processing among a plurality of image information correction processings; and carrying out, at an image forming apparatus, image information correction processing other than the image information correction processing carried out at the photographing apparatus (11).

Regarding claim **16**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 3 and 44 a method of dispersing image information correction processings wherein correction information for correcting image information at the image forming apparatus is inputted to the photographing apparatus (11), and the photographing apparatus (11) carries out image information correction processing in accordance with the inputted correction information (col. 14, lines 5-22).

Regarding claim **17**, Yamauchi et al. discloses a method of dispersing image information correction processings wherein the correction information is inputted from a recording medium (400) which is freely loaded into and removed from the photographing apparatus (11) and on which is recorded correction

information obtained from the image forming apparatus (300) (col. 1, line 64 – col. 2, line 10; col. 14, lines 5-22; col. 16, lines 31-36; col. 28, lines 7-19).

Regarding claim **18**, Yamauchi et al. discloses a method of dispersing image information correction processings wherein the correction information is directly inputted from the image forming apparatus (300) (col. 28, lines 35-67).

Regarding claim **19**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Figs. 15 and 16 a method of dispersing image information correction processings wherein all of the plurality of image information correction processings are carried out at the photographing apparatus (11), and image information correction processing at the image forming apparatus (300) is omitted.

Regarding claim **20**, Yamauchi et al. discloses in Fig. 22 a method of dispersing image information correction processings wherein the plurality of image information correction processings include at least two of white balance correction processing, gamma correction processing, contour enhancement correction processing, and color correction coefficient correction processing.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Takakura (U.S. Patent 6,421,083) discloses a photographing apparatus that comprises a correction circuit and an image forming apparatus. The image


information correction processings are done on the camera or the user can manually do them through an external computer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather R Long whose telephone number is 703-305-0681. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs.: 7:00 am - 4:30 pm, and every other Fri.: 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

HRL
January 7, 2004


NGOC YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER